

Originator

Item

Parks and Recreation Manager's Report

Date

4/13/2016

Description

April 13, 2016 PARC Meeting Park and Recreation Manager's Report

1. Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager Position – Scott Breuer has been hired to fill this position. Scott comes to us from Apple Valley where he was their Recreation Superintendent. Scott has more than twenty years of experience in the Parks and Recreation field and his first day of work is April 11.
2. Summer Employment Opportunities – The Parks and Recreation Division has hired the vast majority of its seasonal employees for this summer. A limited number of positions still have openings - information on the available positions is available online at <https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/seasonal-jobs-parks-and-recreation>.
3. 2016 Youth Summer Experience Catalog Mailing- There was an issue with the distribution of the 2016 catalog. A large number of addresses provided by the School District were either incorrect or inadvertently left off the mailing list. The City and School District sent out e-mails following the March 15 start of registrations to the previous year's youth program expressing our apologies for this inconvenience. The catalog is now available online at <https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/parks-arts-and-recreation/recreational-programs/youth-summer-programs>. We also offered to mail catalogs upon request. Registration is now open for all youth summer programs.

For City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation programs and Artistry programs, people can register online at webtrac.bloomingtonmn.gov. Due to high volume of interest, the View and the Mini View programs have reached their current maximum capacity and are only accepting wait list registrations. In addition, Camp Kota is filling quickly, with many sessions also only accepting waitlist registrations. The City will do it's best to accommodate as many participants as possible, but with facility, staffing and budget constraints, all participants on the waitlist may not be accepted in the programs.

4. Old Cedar Avenue Bridge - The contractor poured the concrete for the Pier 4 column and will be stripping the forms in late March. Work will then begin for forming the pier cap. The Span 3 steel repairs are complete. Span 4 steel repairs have begun and will continue for approximately the next six weeks. The temporary horizontal truss is being reinstalled at Span 5. The lifting rods will be installed next week and Span 5 will be lifted in early April. Work continues on the decking of Spans 1 and 2.
5. City Employee Appointed to Equity Advisory Committee - The Public Health Division congratulates SHIP Coordinator, Elham Ashkar, on her appointment to a four-year term on the Metropolitan Council's newly formed Equity Advisory Committee. Committee members will advise the Metropolitan Council on its work to advance equity in the metropolitan region and meet equity commitments in its long-range plan, Thrive MSP 2040. The committee is comprised of 21 members, including four Metropolitan Council Members, eight community members representing Council districts, and nine at-large community members. A selection committee interviewed over 100 applicants to recommend the appointments.

6. All City Volunteer Breakfast – PARC members are invited to attend the annual All City Volunteer Breakfast on Saturday, April 9, 2016 from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus: Marian Hall, 1114 American Blvd. W. The event will include live musical entertainment by the Medicine Show, a buffet breakfast, thank you gifts for volunteers and a welcome by Mayor Winstead.
7. Spring Egg Hunt/“Egg”citing Family Activities - The annual Spring Egg Hunt, presented in partnership by the Bloomington Optimists Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, was held on Saturday, March 26th, at Normandale Lake Bandshell. The Optimists placed over 9,000 plastic eggs stuffed with jellybeans around the bandshell for youth 8 years of age and younger to find. In addition to the Egg Hunt, “egg”citing family activities were available to participants. Activities included musical entertainment Generations A to Z DJ’s, appearances by the Easter Bunny and McGruff the Crime Dog, and popular pony rides. City of Bloomington informational booths were also supplied by Parks and Recreation, Environmental Health, Human Services, Human Rights Commission, Bloomington Police Department (who also provided traffic control), and the Bloomington Fire Department. An estimated 2,200 people attended the event with approximately 1,000 children participating in the Egg Hunt.



8. 2016 Budget Book - The budget document for the 2016 Budget, with the theme of “Better Together”, is now complete and available on the City’s website at <http://blm.mn/budget16> . This budget document has been submitted to the Government Finance Officers Association to determine if it meets all fourteen of the mandatory evaluation criteria to be recognized with the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The City has received this GFOA Distinguished Budget award 19 consecutive years.
9. Golf Season Opens in Bloomington - The 2016 golf season kicked off this week with the opening of the Hyland Greens driving range on Wednesday, March 9. Both Dwan and Hyland Greens golf courses open for business on Thursday, March 10. This is the earliest season opening in memory. Last year, the golf courses opened on March 13, but closed between March 20 and 29 due to inclement weather. In 2014, the golf courses did not open until April 18 because of a prolonged winter.
10. Public Heather Working with Somali Community on Physical Activity - Public Health has implemented a plan to remove barriers for Bloomington’s Somali families that want more physical activity. The Alliance Wellness Center, which serves the local Somali Community Hub, completed an assessment with Bloomington community members to collect information for the plan. The assessment found that adjusting to colder weather and cultural differences make getting enough physical activity a problem. The loss of routine physical activity combined with an increase in fat and calorie intake has resulted in many Somalis developing diabetes.

The plan started with Zumba classes in an apartment building where many Somali families have expressed their desire to be more physically active. The initial success of these classes led participants to request other opportunities for physical activity, most notably swimming. Public Health is working to connect families with community resources that can make it easier to be physically active. UCare, Allina, and the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) are funding this work with the Somali community.

11. Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area Lighting Plan Amendment – On March 21 Council reviewed an amendment to the Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area (HSSA) conditions of development agreement. The agreement had called for a secondary lighting system that would be used for after-hours maintenance, and would be directed upward toward the hill, thereby reducing glare cast down upon the nearby neighborhood. This would have added significant costs to the project. Three Rivers Park District brought forward an alternate plan to utilize the existing lighting system and use shielded and angled fixtures to reduce glare. After testing the improved existing lighting system this winter, the consensus of staff, nearby residents and Council was that the glare was significantly reduced. The Council approved the development agreement amendment unanimously.
12. Rich Bird Passes Away – Seasonal employee Rich Bird passed away on March 19 at the age of 68. Rich was a long-time employee of Bloomington Public Schools as a teacher, football coach and athletic coordinator. During the summer months, Rich worked for the Parks and Recreation Division as a coordinator for the Summer Spectrum program. He will be deeply missed.

Requested Action

No action required.

Attachments: